10% loan since these States fall under the Special-category. Rs. 43.20 crores have been provided in the year 2000-01 and Rs. 24.30 crores was released during the year 2001-02 for various schemes under APDRP in NER.

Uniform electricity tariff rates

2300. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to introduce uniform electricity tariff rates throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

Consumer tariffs are required to be fixed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in the States where such Commissions have been set up under the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) Act, 1998 or under the State Reform Acts. Where the SERCs have not been set up or are yet to become fully functional, tariffs are to be determined by the State Electricity Boards/State Electricity Departments/licensees.

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above the question does not arise.

Protest against the Power Tariff Revision

2301. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been protest against the power tariff revision at several places throughout India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Some categories of

consumers including agricultural consumers do sometimes protest against the tariff increases decided by State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in some States.

The National Development Council (NDC) appointed a Committee on Power chaired by Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The report submitted in September, 1994 recommended *inter alia*, that,

— The State Government should adopt minimum All India Agricultural Tariffs as notified by Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority and also should agree to provide subsidy to the SEBs in a transparent manner to compensate for the losses, if any.

— Subsidies to the agricultural consumers should be progressively phased out.

Chief Ministers' Conference held in 1996 adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) which envisages, *inter alia* that:

No sector shall pay less than 50% of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution) and that tariffs for agricultural sector will not be less than 50 paise/KWH to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than three years.

The Government of India have enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 with a view to rationalize tariff and providing for transparent policies regarding subsidies. The Regulatory Commissions are expected to fix tariff so as to progressively reflect the cost of supply, encourage efficiency, economy and competition. The Regulatory Commissions are also required to ensure that interests of consumers are safeguarded and at the same time consumers pay for the use of electricity in a reasonable manner based on the average cost of supply.

The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 26.2.2000 recognized that the cross subsidies cannot be sustained if the industrial tariff makes industry non-competitive.

The Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 3.3.2001 resolved *inter alia* that,

— the quality of power supplied especially in rural areas needs to be improved through the Accelerated Power Development Programme and other programmes quickly.

— SERCs may be made functional in next six months and tariff filings made. Tariff orders issued by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and SERCs need to be implemented fully unless stayed or set aside by court orders. It is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power.

— the past decisions of Chief Ministers of minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

Power reforms

2302. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States that have effectively been implementing power reforms in the country;

(b) the transmission and distribution losses in the States which have been effectively implementing power reforms in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that inspite of reforms T&D losses have not come down; and

(d) if so, what steps the Ministry is taking to reduce T&D losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi have initiated power sector reforms by enacting their own State Electricity Reforms laws which provide, *inter alia*, for unbundling/corporatisation of SEBs, setting up of SERCs etc. They have unbundled and corporatised their electricity boards.

Twelve SERCs of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have already issued tariff orders. In the MoUs/MoAs on reforms with the Ministry of Power, twenty-two States have so far committed themselves to having tariffs fixed by SERCs.